



City of Cincinnati

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS ADVISES CUSTOMERS TO PROTECT PIPES FROM FREEZING

With forecasts of single digit temperatures, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) is urging customers to take practical measures to prevent frozen water pipes in their homes.

Pipes that run through unheated areas or against exterior walls are most susceptible to freezing. If the pipes are under a kitchen or bathroom sink, keeping the cabinet doors open to allow more home heat to reach the pipes may help. You may also avoid frozen pipes by leaving a steady stream of water (about the width of pencil lead) flowing from faucets.

If pipes freeze despite these precautions, customers should make sure they know where their master water shutoff is before attempting to thaw pipes. The pipe may already be broken but not leaking because the water is frozen. Knowing where your shutoff is will allow you to turn the water off quickly if you develop a leak.

A hair dryer with a low heat setting is the easiest and safest tool to use to thaw frozen pipes. A heat lamp or electric lamp is also acceptable.

First open the faucet. Then use the hair dryer to wave warm air back and forth along the pipe.

A torch with an open flame should never be used to thaw pipes. It is a fire hazard and can further damage pipes and soldered joints.

It is best to insulate unheated areas or wrap water pipes before very cold weather arrives. Disconnecting and draining outdoor hoses is also important to prevent a frozen pipe or faucet.

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